

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 233

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 116

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 233—Relative to Medal of Honor recipients of California.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 15, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 233, Bogh. California Medal of Honor recipients.

This measure would recognize and commend the bravery and selflessness of the Medal of Honor recipients of California, and express the Legislature's appreciation for their service and dedication to the citizens of California and the United States.

WHEREAS, Our nation's highest award for bravery is the Congressional Medal of Honor. This medal is bestowed only for the most extraordinary acts of heroism or self-sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty, and it is the most distinguished decoration for military valor any individual can receive; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is generally presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress, and it is commonly referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Since the Medal of Honor was established in 1861, there have been 3,428 total Medals of Honor awarded, with almost one-half of them awarded posthumously. The first Medal of Honor was awarded in the Civil War, and the last conflict in which it was awarded was Somalia. Of the 3,410 recipients, 18 have received the Medal of Honor twice. To date 2,468 medals have been awarded to individuals serving in the Army, 649 to individuals serving in the Navy, 294 to individuals serving in the Marines, 16 to individuals serving in the Air Force, and one to an individual serving in the Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, Recipients of the Medal of Honor include individuals of every rank, from private to general, and represent ethnic, geographical, economic, social, and religious diversity; and

WHEREAS, General George Patton, referring to the Medal of Honor, once remarked "I'd give my immortal soul for that decoration," and President Harry S. Truman once remarked to a Medal of Honor recipient, "I'd rather have that medal than be President of the United States"; and

WHEREAS, Medal of Honor recipients of California have fought so unselfishly to secure our freedom, we owe these decorated heroes a debt of gratitude; and

WHEREAS, The names of all recipients of the Medal of Honor are etched on the granite walls of the Medal of Honor Memorial located at Riverside, in the great State of California; and

WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the significant duties, responsibilities, and sacrifices of the 16 living Medal of Honor recipients of California: John Baca, Robert Bush, Jon Cavaiani, Walt Ehlers, John Finn, Delbert Jennings, John McGinty, Lew Millett, Robert Modrzejewski, Mitch Paige, Richard Pittman, Alejandro Ruiz, James Stockdale, James Swett, James Taylor, and Jay Vargas; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California does hereby recognize and commend the bravery and selflessness of the Medal of Honor recipients of California, and expresses its appreciation for their service and dedication to the citizens of California and the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

